

CAC Meeting 4-21-2010

CAC Present: Wally Wilkinson, Ron Hvizdak, Dan Savage, Bernie Cassidy, Mike Shepard, Tammy Fisher, Tony Anderson, Darrell Coverdell, Roger Diegle

FWP Present: Jim Satterfield, Tim Their, John Fraley, Jim Williams, Nick Scholz, Jim Vashro, Lee Anderson and Martha Abbrescia

Housekeeping:

Terms: 6 people are supposed to term out in 2010. Asking those folks to extend their terms for one year thru June 2011. Then, we'll have terms ending in 2011, 2012 & 2013.

Updates:

As far as the concealed weapon permit discussion from our last meeting: recognized under MT law are: AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, ID, IN, Iowa, KS, KY, LO, Maryland, Mass, MI, MN, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, Penn, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, Virginia, WA, WV, WY.

People in the following states MAY NOT carry concealed weapons in MT: Alabama, Delaware, DC, Hawaii, Maine, NH, Rhode Island

Round Table:

Tony Anderson: in the past we've talked about CAC members needing to attend all meetings...for example...If 3 meetings in a row are missed, maybe their slot could be re-filled. (?).....a good thing to do is to call or email and indicate why CAC members won't be present.

Wally Wilkinson: Couldn't make it to the FLHTD Meeting. Says he would love to hear updates on this topic. Shares that people he runs into are expressing frustrations with the whole situation and about ready to pack it up and sell their boats. Tony Anderson gives update (as he was there).....Tony says that people should not just roll up and die, but invest some time into this endeavor. We're nowhere close to getting a compromise. Barry brought out this topic...they are looking to gillnet for 3 years, then they will see what is happening. But, Barry said they will have no way of finding out if anything they did was valuable as it takes 5 years to get the babies up to where they could be counted. To kill 300k lake trout to get about 1500 more bull trout is crazy. Who knows what is going to happen? They could do much more harm long term than mysis shrimp ever was.

The public comment period on issues is open thru May 17th.

Roger Diegle: Will they also be looking at the other fish too? The effects on Whitefish, for example....what if the netting doesn't work and bull trout doesn't increase. Will Flathead Lake be re-stocked?

What are the fawn recruitment numbers? What is the wolf quota going to be? Tim Their: states in his flights over that last two days, he has seen really good recruitment. We sure haven't had a bad winter... things are looking good. Previous two winters were rough west of the reservoir...it could be tougher over around West Kootenai. (Jerry Brown's area is currently vacant due to his retirement). Harvest Survey of Hunting District #121 represented the #2 elk harvest in the entire state!!!

Ron Hvizdak: B tags....what's going on with the B tags? The rest of the state outside of R1 pushed that through.

Dan Savage: there is a wolf study going on in the North Fork. Who is behind this study?

Bernie Cassidy: Brain Marotz put on presentation in the Libby area last week that was pretty interesting. Over the last couple of years some lake trout have been found in the Kootenai River above the falls. Impressive presentation.

Has the Dept considered using hunters to wipe out a troublesome wolf pack? Kind of like a game damage hunt? FWP works in concert with Wildlife Services (agricultural entity...it would be very difficult to throw a hunter into this mix.) For efficiency purposes, hunters would not work for wolves. Hopefully with a hunting prescription, it will reduce the number of wolves to where it wouldn't be such a problem.

Mike Shepard: Wolves...when will the judge make his decision? CFAC – how will this work with the plant now being closed? Will parking at Teakettle get worked out? What is your Comment on MSU's elk study? Saw a tremendous grizzly out of hibernation about two weeks ago... it was thrilling. What about fishers and wolverines possibly being listed as endangered? Lee is working on plan for CFAC for next year.

There are some legislators interested in slicing through FWP budget. Concern is that there will be significant pressure to cut FWP budget due to FWP possibly interfering with land deals and property rights...maybe they're getting too big for their britches, values). etc. (Conservation values bump up against property

Tony Anderson: Sympathizes with the budget situation for FWP. Appreciative of ...sitting on the banks fishing with Brent Mitchell....he said I should get involved so that I know what is actually going on. He's seen fulfillment especially with the acts that Landstrom has done with the docks in the region.....very commendable.

Flathead is a big emotional deal. Flathead Wildlife is doing phenomenal job.

Darrell Coverdell: Do we still have an ongoing bear study? Wayfarer's dock is difficult to launch during low water...

Public: Tim Their Presentation – Sheep & Goat Reintroduction Projects

Sheep on Teakettle: Outlined the process and the area involved. The results from the overall analysis didn't come back completely positive....saying that we can only support about 40 sheep in this area.

It is believed that there is a place north of Columbia falls that has exotic goats, pygmy goats etc. This will have to be addressed. Pull up the Fair book and see who is in charge of the sheep barn....they know where all the sheep are in the area. 4-H Office....

Needs to be presented to Commission by June 10th. EA by September 10th.

Mike Shepard, Tony Anderson and Greg Foley have previously expressed interest in helping coordinate this project. Tim will share contact information with those CAC members.

Next meeting is the last meeting until fall. The next meeting will be held on June 16th at Lone Pine State Park.